

Message Text

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43

ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0283

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF JUNE 17, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JUNE 17 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE FRG REP, NETHERLANDS REP, AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, GDR REP OESER AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER.

2. THE SESSION WAS AN ANIMATED ONE. EASTERN REPS DELIBERATELY SHIFTED FOCUS OF DISCUSSION FROM THE ISSUE OF WHETHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD UNDERTAKE EXPLICIT REDUCTION COMMITMENTS FROM THE OUTSET TO THE ISSUE OF ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS

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REPEATEDLY ASKED WHETHER THE WEST WAS INCREASING ITS ARMAMENTS

IN THE AREA DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WHETHER THE WEST WAS READY TO CONTROL THE ARMAMENTS RACE BY REDUCING AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT THE END OF THE SESSION, KHLESTOV PROPOSED THAT PARTICIPANTS WORK OUT AN AGREED DEFINITION AS TO WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER GROUND FORCES AND UNDER AIR FORCES IN PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES.

3. NETHERLANDS REP OPENED WITH RENEWED WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT DISCUSSION OF DATA BE CARRIED OUT IN PARALLEL WITH CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES. HE SAID EASTERN REPS WERE RAISING THE PRECONDITION OF PRIOR SOLUTION OF THESE OTHER ISSUES BEFORE DATA DISCUSSION COULD TAKE PLACE, EVEN THOUGH KHLESTOV HAD SAID AT THE LAST SESSION THAT THE EAST POSED NO PRECONDITIONS FOR DATA DISCUSSION. KHLESTOV DENIED THAT POSED PRECONDITIONS FOR DATA DISCUSSION, BUT STATED THAT PARTICIPANTS' HAD ALREADY AGREED TO A SEQUENCE OF DISCUSSION COMPRISING THE TOPICS OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET AND WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED, AND THAT THE EAST WAS NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO CHANGE THIS SEQUENCE.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK REP CRITICIZED NON US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENTS AND TO TAKE THEM FROM THE OUTSET. GDR REP LAUNCHED INTO THE SUBJECT OF ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS. HE CLAIMED WESTERN REFUSAL TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS, ESPECIALLY AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS, LEFT THE WAY OPEN FOR DANGEROUS ARMS RACE IN THE AREA. HE ASKED WHETHER WEST WAS INCREASING ITS ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

5. FRG REP SAID WEST WAS NOT INCREASING THE SIZE OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE AREA, THAT BOTH SIDES WERE ENGAGING IN FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND EQUIPPING THEIR FORCES WITH MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT. HE POINTED OUT INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN EASTERN CLAIMS THAT WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR NON INCREASE COMMITMENTS ON GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE I REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT RESTRAIN POTENTIALLY INCREASES OF FORCE CAPABILITIES IN THE AREA, AND EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THEIR PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD COMMIT

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THEMSELVES NOT TO INCREASE THE MANPOWER OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PUT AN END TO THE ARMS RACE IN THE AREA. THERE WAS AN ACTIVE DISCUSSION OF WHAT THE ALLIES MEANT BY THE PHRASE IN THEIR OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMBAT CAPABILITY," WITH KHLESTOV REPEATEDLY ASKING WHETHER ALLIES MEANT WITH THIS PHRASE ONLY TANKS, OR ALL GROUND FORCE ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA.

6. KHLESTOV THEN SAID THE EAST WISHED TO TAKE STILL ANOTHER INITIATIVE MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WISHES EXPRESSED BY WESTERN REPS, THE EAST PROPOSED THAT AN AGREED DEFINITION SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AS TO WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF AN AGREEMENT IN GROUND FORCES AND IN AIR FORCES. SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT PARALLEL TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS. DRAWING ON A CONTINGENCY POSITION APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GP, US REP MADE THE PRELIMINARY COMMENT THAT IDEA OF PARALLEL DISCUSSION WAS CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT THAT, IN THE WESTERN VIEW, IT SHOULD BE SIMPLER TO BEGIN WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE FIGURES TO WHICH DEFINITIONS WERE RELATED. END SUMMARY.RESOR

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